

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 5-12 have previously been withdrawn. Claims 1-4 and 13-16 have been amended herein. This Amendment, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated November 25, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 16 based on certain informalities. Claim 16 has been amended herein, and Applicant respectfully submits that all of the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 15, and 16 have been amended herein, and Applicant respectfully submits that all of the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, and 13

Claims 1-3, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kostrov et al. (US 6,706,006; henceforth "Kostrov") in view of Martin (US 6,962,298). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites:

A suction-cleansing device comprising:

a vessel body...;

an air/liquid jetting **port located at a front end portion of the vessel body**;

a liquid-introducing pipe connected tangentially to a circumferential wall of the vessel body's rear;

an air/liquid jet-guiding portion , **which is located circumferentially outward from the air/liquid jetting port, and which extends circumferentially outward from the air/liquid jetting port in a water jetting direction...**; and

a flow-out portion composed of at least one of: notches **formed in a front end portion of the air/liquid jet guiding portion and ports formed in the front end portion of the air/liquid jet guiding portion**,

wherein **water flows out of the flow-out portion through the at least one of notches and ports.**

In other words, an apparatus consistent with claim 1, includes an air/liquid jetting port located **at a front end portion of the vessel body**, an air/liquid jet-guiding portion located outward of the jetting portion and extending circumferentially outward from the jetting port, and a flow out portion composed of at least one of notches and portions, **which are each formed at the front end (same end as jetting port)** and water flows out the at least one of notches and ports. Applicant respectfully submits that neither reference applied by the Examiner teaches this feature.

Specifically, neither Kostrov, nor Martin teach or even fairly suggest “at least one of notches and ports” through which water flows out, being positioned on the front side, when a air/liquid jetting port is also located on the front side. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over these references for at least this reason. Applicant also submits that claims 2, 3, and 13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Further, claim 2 recites “an air self-suction port that is opened and formed on a rear wall of said vessel body and at a position deviated from at least one of: an axial center of said vessel body and an air axis formed in said vessel body, **wherein said rear wall is disposed opposite the air/liquid jetting port.**” Applicant respectfully submits that neither reference teaches a port that is “opened and formed on a rear wall of said vessel body...wherein said rear wall is disposed opposite the air/liquid jetting port”. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable for this additional reason.

Further, claim 3 depends from claim 2 and further recites “a rotating member that is attached by at least one of being screwed in a threaded portion and being fitted to a fitting portion, wherein the threaded portion and the fitting position are each opened and formed in the rear wall of said vessel body and said rotating member is rotatably provided in a covered manner on the rear wall...” Further, as discussed above, claim 2 recites that the rear wall is “**disposed opposite the air/liquid jetting port**”. Neither reference teaches, or even fairly suggests a rotating member positioned on a wall “**disposed opposite the air/liquid jetting port**”. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is patentable over the applied references for this additional reason.

Claims 4 and 14-16

Claims 4 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kostrov in view of Martin, and further in view of Henkin et al (US 5,230,106). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 4 and 14 depend from claims 2 and 3, which have been shown above to be patentable over the Kostrov and Martin references. Henkin does not cure the deficiencies of the other references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Further, claims 15 and 16 recite features similar to those recited in claims 2 and 3. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15 and 16 are patentable over the Kostrov and Martin references for reasons analogous those discussed above. Further, Applicant submits that Henkin does not cure the deficiencies of Kostrov and Martin. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15 and 16 are patentable over all of the applied references, and respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 15 and 16 also be withdrawn.

For all the above discussed reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of the present claims be withdrawn and the application be allowed. Applicant notes that claims 1-4 correspond to the allowed claims of a corresponding Japanese Application.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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